

2.1% with non sensitive skin also presented with a dermatological condition. Those with dermatosis more frequently reported sensitive or very sensitive skin (79.0% versus 48.6%, $p < 0.001$). A history of childhood atopic dermatitis or eczema was more frequent in patients with sensitive or very sensitive skin (18.3% versus 9.8%, $p < 0.001$). The interviewees who declared that they had dry or oily skin also significantly more frequently ($p < 0.001$) reported sensitive or very sensitive skin than those with normal skin. Subjects with sensitive or very sensitive skin reddened more easily for no reason (26.9% versus 10.5%, $p < 0.001$), after exposure to the sun (50.2% versus 34.0%, $p < 0.001$) or in response to an emotional stimulus (52.2% versus 40.6%, $p < 0.001$). **CONCLUSIONS:** This is the first study of sensitive skins to be conducted in a representative French population. Thus, slightly less than 25 million French people would appear to have sensitive or very sensitive skin. This is probably a much higher figure than the population spontaneously reporting this condition to a dermatologist. These specialists should therefore systematically ask their patients this question. The non response rate was negligible, which indicates that the term "sensitive skin" is meaningful to the immense majority of people.

PSS12**SENSITIVE SKINS IN PORTUGAL:
AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH**Boussetta S, Taieb C

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OBJECTIVES: To evaluate the perception of skin sensitivity in Portugal. **METHODS:** A representative nationwide sample of the Portuguese population aged 15 and over was taken. The individuals were questioned by telephone and selected as per the quotas method. **RESULTS:** To the question "Do you have sensitive skin", 28.5% of men and 26.5% of women answered "sensitive" or "very sensitive". The no response rate was less than 0.5%. A total of 27.1% of the population with very sensitive skin, 26.9% with sensitive skin, 7.5% with slightly sensitive skin and 7.5% with non sensitive skin also presented with a dermatological condition. Those with dermatosis more frequently reported sensitive or very sensitive skin (57.8% versus 23.0%, $p < 0.001$). A history of childhood atopic dermatitis or eczema was more frequent in patients with sensitive or very sensitive skin (11.9% versus 4.5%, $p = 0.003$). The interviewees who declared that they had dry or oily skin also significantly more frequently ($p < 0.001$) reported sensitive or very sensitive skin than those with normal skin. Subjects with sensitive or very sensitive skin reddened more easily for no reason (40.2% versus 22.5%, $p < 0.001$). **CONCLUSIONS:** This is the first study of sensitive skins to be conducted in a representative Portuguese population. Thus, slightly less than 2.5 million Portuguese would appear to have sensitive or very sensitive skin. This is probably a much higher figure than the population spontaneously reporting this condition to a dermatologist. These specialists should therefore systematically ask their patients this question. The non response rate was negligible, which indicates that the term "sensitive skin" is meaningful to the immense majority of people.

PSS13**HAIR LOSS: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH**Misery L¹, Boussetta S², Taieb C²¹Hopital Morvan, Brest, France, ²Pierre Fabre, Boulogne, France

OBJECTIVES: To assess and analyse, using an epidemiological approach, persons suffering from hair loss. **METHODS:** A sample of the population, representative of the population over the age of 15, was established by CSA Santé. Hence, 4506

individuals were interviewed by phone and selected according to the quotas method. **RESULTS:** Hair loss affects nearly 20% of the population with a greater prevalence in men compared with women (25.2% vs 15.2%, $p < 0.001$). Hair loss was more frequently seen in patients over 35 years old (14.8% of patients under 35 against respectively 23.3% and 21.7% of subjects over 35 years old). In addition, subjects suffering from hair loss considered more frequently having sensitive scalp than subjects who did not suffer from hair loss (58.7% vs 40.6%, $p < 0.001$). For patients with hair loss, this problem was long-standing (34.7%), reactional (14.4%), occasional (29.2%) or chronic (17.3%). Scalp sensitivity was not correlated with the type of hair loss except for reactional hair loss for which sensitive subjects were significantly more numerous than non sensitive subjects. (19.5% vs 7.2%, $p = 0.015$). Subjects who were more frequently prone to hair loss were those with greasy scalps than came those with dry scalp and those with normal scalps (respectively 31.0% vs 25.2% vs 14.9%, $p < 0.001$). Finally, subjects with hair loss were more numerous to report skin sensitivity than others (62.9% vs 55.1%; $p = 0.045$). **CONCLUSIONS:** This study therefore shows that nearly 1/5 of the population is affected by hair loss with a greater prevalence of men and oily scalps. Hair loss appears to be linked with scalp sensitivity, which backs up the approach of current hair loss treatments. However, it appears that hair loss is also correlated with overall skin sensitivity. Treating the skin may hence help treat hair loss. These results support our wish to continue research on the matter.

PSS14**DRY SKIN: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH**Boussetta S¹, Taieb C²¹Pierre Fabre, Boulogne, France, ²Pierre Fabre, Boulogne, FRANCE, France

OBJECTIVES: To Assess and analyse, using an epidemiological approach, subjects with dry skin. **METHODS:** In each of the eight following European countries (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Greece) a sample of the population, representative of the population over the age of 15, was established by CSA Santé. Hence, 4506 individuals were interviewed by phone and selected according to the quotas method. **RESULTS:** In total, 37.9 % of interviewed subjects said their skin was dry. In subjects with dry skin, the sex ratio was in favor of women (59.5% versus 40.5%). Subjects with dry skin also said their skin was sensitive or very sensitive (52.4%) against 28.6% in the rest of the population. Subjects with dry skin had a tendency to consult more than others: 24% said that had never consulted a dermatologist (versus 34.5%). They were also more numerous (16.3%) to have declared suffering from a current dermatological pathology (versus 9.7%) or having a history of atopic dermatitis (16.4% vs 9.62%). Among those who declared having a dermatological pathology, 48% reported contact eczema or atopic dermatitis (vs 28%), 10.4% reported seborrheic dermatitis (vs 5.65), 8.5% reported rosacea (versus 5.65), and 14% reported acne (vs 40.1). Sensitivity to multiple factors, whether physical or chemical, were systematically more significantly important for subjects with dry skin compared with the others. **CONCLUSIONS:** Skin hydration assessment has already been the subjects of numerous scientific studies as this is a major preoccupation both in the field of dermatology and cosmetology. This European study presents the advantage of confirming, among a large European sample, available yet contrasting data/ Dry skin is a source of discomfort and tautness. Causes for skin dryness are manifold and subjects with weakened dry skin should most probably be offered adapted and preventive management.